

'HYSTERIA' LETTER BY MRS. STILLMAN VALUELESS IN SUIT

Contents of Missive Said to
Be Misinterpreted and
Exaggerated.

NO WRONG IMPLIED

Cordial Messages to Wife
From Banker Prove Ab-
sence of Admissions.

AN AGREEMENT IN 1919

Status of Baby Guy Now Prin-
cipal Issue in Divorce Action
—New Charges Filed.

It developed yesterday that the letter James A. Stillman received from his wife about March, 1918, which has been characterized as an hysterical communication, not only has been much exaggerated and misinterpreted but would be rendered impotent and valueless by the letters written in reply by Mr. Stillman to his wife.

Long before December, 1919, when Mrs. Stillman received from her husband a letter welcoming her home from Europe, the banker wrote many fervent letters to her. The letters were regular every time there was a period of natural separation. While Mrs. Stillman was in Europe or Canada and Mr. Stillman here in New York the letters were regularly written and received. They assured Mrs. Stillman that she was "a wonderful woman," "a splendid mother," "a delightful creature" and so on. They were dignified, sympathetic, cultured letters.

That the mysterious letter which Mr. Stillman's lawyers refer to as "an hysterical confession" in any way implied wrongdoing on Mrs. Stillman's part was denied yesterday by representatives of both sides. The letter contains reference to Mrs. Stillman's friendship for Ferd Beaulieu, the Canadian guide, and goes on to draw the attention of Mr. Stillman to the possibility that Mrs. Stillman might have to undergo an operation.

Boy's Status Principal Issue.

But Mrs. Stillman's cordial, frank letters to his wife continued, whenever they were apart, until they openly broke in March, 1920. The person making this known declared that they would be introduced in behalf of the boy, Guy, who was born in November, 1918, and whose legitimacy will be the ultimate question to be decided.

Reminding the reporter to whom he was talking that Jay Leeds, son of Florence Lawlor Leeds, was born in October, 1918, and Guy Stillman about six weeks later, he told of a hitherto unknown agreement arrived at by the Stillmans in October, 1919.

For some time prior to that time Mrs. Stillman knew of the existence of Florence Leeds. At all events she had been given to understand that there was such a person; that she was or had been a member of several choruses, and particularly the Chilton Chorus at the Century, and that there was at least one other young woman with whom Mr. Stillman had maintained relations more or less cordial.

To Mr. Stillman's attention the name of Ferd Beaulieu had been drawn. Because of these suspicions on either side there had been sporadic coolnesses. Mr. Stillman had urged his wife to be less glib when she heard gossip. And Mrs. Stillman assured her husband that he insulted her when he permitted his informants to link her name with that of Beaulieu. But the coolness continued and they agreed that it would be best for all concerned if they went along independently of each other.

Come to an Agreement.

It then was agreed that Mr. Stillman should pay Mrs. Stillman \$50,000 a year and that certain provisions for the maintenance of the older children should be agreed upon to their mutual satisfaction by the lawyers. Cadwalader, Wickersham and Taft represented Mrs. Stillman and DeLoach, Mott and Cornelius J. Sullivan represented Mr. Stillman.

It appeared as though the differences had been amicably settled, and the friends were glad the matter was not going to become public gossip.

It was agreed that Mr. Stillman's home should be open always to Mrs. Stillman and that their relations were to be cordial. She was to pay no further attention to stories of Florence Leeds and others and he was to listen with impersonal interest to tales about her.

The agreement existed less than a month. A person who had occupied the position of Mrs. Stillman's counselor, guide and friend expressed undisguised astonishment when Mrs. Stillman said that \$50,000 a year had been the stipulated sum.

"What," said this friend, "\$50,000?" The wife of James A. Stillman, president of the National City Bank and heir to many millions? It is absurd. You are inconsiderate of yourself. His lawyers know he is getting off cheaply. And the agreement was upset. Mrs. Stillman spent much money and bought many beautiful and expensive things for which bills were sent to Mr. Stillman. Eventually Mr. Stillman went to his wife and asked her to be less lavish in her buying. He accused her of extravagance. Mrs. Stillman reminded him of his alleged expenditures on other women. Then and there vanished the October agreement.

Mr. Stillman's lawyers will contend that the chief reason their client did not separate from his wife in March, 1918, was that James Stillman, father of the present head of the National City Bank, was alive when Mrs. Stillman wrote about the coding of a baby who was named Guy. Under these circumstances, they contend, Mr. Stillman was willing to go to any lengths to avoid trouble and any condition that might bring publicity.

Say Banker Was Influenced.

The elder Stillman died about the middle of that month. The banker's lawyers will contend that it was necessary that Mr. Stillman assume places of vast business and financial responsibility; that his father's death forced him into the public gaze, and that he did not dare enter such tasks as the center of a family scandal.

And on the other hand, Stanchfield and Levy will contend on behalf of Mrs. Stillman that Mr. Stillman never considered a divorce or cast the slightest suspicion upon the child Guy until he suffered ill from being influenced and his mind was so affected that he was only able to do what Mrs. Stillman, but

were not averse to doing a bit of missionary work for Florence Leeds.

It is not improbable that Justice Morschauer will file his decision in the motion for alimony and counsel fees late Saturday afternoon or early Monday. He proposes to spend Friday night and all Saturday studying the affidavits and other documents given him Wednesday by the lawyers. Yesterday Mrs. Stillman's lawyers went to White Plains again and filed additional affidavits refuting the allegations of her husband and making additional charges against the banker.

It is said that among these new affidavits are statements by Ferd Beaulieu and other attaches of the Stillman camp at Three Rivers, Quebec. These statements contradict every statement made by the six Canadians who testified before Dan J. Gleason, the referee in this case. These six Canadians testified against Mrs. Stillman.

As soon as Justice Morschauer files his decision and the papers on which he bases it they will become public property unless otherwise ordered by the court. And at the same time it is planned to let the public read letters written to Mrs. Stillman by Ferd Beaulieu. The banker's lawyers have letters written to Mrs. Stillman by Beaulieu and they intend to use them if the necessity arises in court.

Mrs. Stillman denies having received these letters and insists that if they were sent to her by Beaulieu they must have been intercepted and opened. It is understood that some of them were taken before they reached the letter box or were posted. Mrs. Stillman's lawyers are prepared to fight against their introduction. The fact that they never reached the person to whom they were written will be the chief argument against their admission as evidence.

Mack Active in the Case.

At the only hearing that Referee Gleason has held John E. Mack, guardian ad litem for Guy Stillman, checked the only serious attempt James A. Stillman made to get his contentions of illegitimacy into the record.

Mr. Stillman was the star witness at the first session, held in the rooms of the Bar Association in Forty-fourth street, Manhattan, December 11. The banker was asked how many children he had.

"I am the father of three children," he replied.

"Are there no others?" he was asked. "And here Mr. Mack interrupted the witness."

"I object to this sort of wheedling," said Mr. Mack. "The sole object of this question is to get Mr. Stillman on the record as saying that the boy Guy is illegitimate. I ask that the witness be warned not to reply."

Mr. Gleason upheld Mr. Mack. The impression continues that neither of the Stillmans will win a decree of divorce. The chief fight will be over the child Guy.

MRS. STILLMAN NOT TALKING ABOUT SUIT Receives Reporters and Poses for Photographers.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD, LAKESIDE, March 24.—Anne Urquhart Stillman, wife of James A. Stillman, saw reporters and posed for photographers to-day on the grounds of the Laurel in the Pines Hotel, where she is living in retirement. She refused to discuss her marital troubles, declaring that her affairs are in the hands of her lawyers.

Mrs. Stillman had returned to the hotel last night after a consultation with her lawyers. They advised her not to talk for publication of the divorce action. Mr. Stillman has brought against her or of any phase of the case.

Mrs. Stillman chatted about her children, about herself and about quite foreign subjects, and always in a light hearted vein. Either this wife and mother, whose domestic affairs are on every one's tongue, is being a good sport, as they say, and is determined that the world shall not know how deeply she feels, or she is so sure that her innocence will be established that she refuses to be depressed.

One is inclined to the latter opinion after seeing her walk with a springy step and face the cameras without a sign of nervousness. And this impression is strengthened by her frank and cordial handshake. She approached the reporters with a smile and without the least appearance of self-consciousness, and asked how they wanted her to pose.

She wore a powder gray cloth coat which showed barely an inch of her pleated royal Stuart plaid skirt. The coat had a wide rolling collar trimmed with out spiral ornaments of the same color, and was belted about her girlish figure. Her black hair is short. She wore a henna duvetin turban, with gray wool and very wheels at the sides, and her woollen stockings also were gray. Her tan shoes had broad round toes and scarcely any heel.

"I don't mind the rain at all," she said, as she took a position under a tall pine tree.

"In fact, I like it, and after this is over I am going for a walk, and then will drive in the rain. It isn't the best time to have your picture taken when you are very tired, is it?" she asked.

Mrs. Stillman has little color, her skin is smooth and pale, but her eyes are bright and full of fire when she talks.

When it was suggested that she walk toward a pine tree and stop for a moment, she flashed back at the camera men: "No tree ever stopped me." And one felt that not even a Lakeside pine would baffle or impede her progress.

"How about taking me with the tree?" she asked. "I'll compromise." And she leaned against the yellow and black pine bark, touching it with a friendly and familiar gesture.

Several times she glanced upward at a window on the top floor of the annex where baby Guy's blond head could be seen. His little face, which he seems to be always eating, struck in antithesis to the black hats upon which they bloom, attract without opposition.

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Fabric and Straw Combinations

IN MODELS SHAPED BY FASHION

22.00

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HELP FOR SING SING PAPER.

Mayor Lewis E. Lauder, warden of Sing Sing, announced yesterday that offers to provide paper and material to print the prison newspaper, the Sing Sing Bulletin, had been made by J. Ogden Schenck, Francis Knickerbocker Schenck and the Prison Association of New York. The paper has not appeared this month because of lack of funds.

STATE INQUIRY IN HYLAN RULE URGED

Grand Jury Helpless to End
Intolerable Conditions, Cit-
izens Union Says.

MAYOR IS 'PLIANT TOOL'

"Crime Is Appalling—Police
Department a Vehicle for
Honoring 'Pull.'"

Declaring the Hylan administration has brought the city government to the lowest level in twenty years, the Citizens Union yesterday to Gov. Miller and members of the Legislature urging a legislative inquiry without further delay.

"The good of the city of New York," the letter says, "demands that public attention shall be focused on the collapse of the present government of the city," which, it is asserted, "has been characterized by stupidity, incompetence and the brazen exploitation of the opportunities of public office holding."

"If only a portion of what the Mayor and the Comptroller have charged against each other be true," the letter continues, "both should be removed from office forthwith."

"The communication goes on to say: "The Department of Education has been hamstrung by the deliberate withholding of concededly necessary appropriations. In nearly every department the personnel has been demoralized. Political or personal favoritism has replaced effective public servants with incompetent satellites. In many of the departments graft has proceeded without check."

"The Police Department has degenerated into a vehicle for honoring 'pull' and indulging hate. Members of high rank have violated the law. Crimes of violence in appalling numbers are perpetrated with impunity. From almost the first day of his incumbency the Police Commissioner has paralyzed the efficiency and destroyed the morale of a fine body of men."

"The Department of Public Markets has rung with charge and counter charge of corruption. The leasing of docks has reeked with scandal."

"The Mayor himself has insisted on the appointment to office of men of questionable previous record. In some instances such appointments have been indicated while actually holding office. The Mayor has been exposed by the Lockwood committee as a pliant tool in the hands of representatives of special interests."

"In the opinion of the Citizens Union they established the overwhelming need for an immediate investigation by a legislative committee, which will develop the cause of existing intolerable conditions, the consequences thereof and the remedy therefor. Grand Jury proceedings are inadequate. A legislative committee alone holds the promise of relief."

**CRAIG FIGHTS PAYMENT
FOR SUBWAY CAR DOORS**

**Comptroller Calls Demand an
'Afterthought.'**

Contending that the attempt of the Independent Transit Company to sue through its subsidiary, the Subway Rapid Transit Construction Company, is seeking to have the city pay for the installation of the new multiple door sys-

tem, the Comptroller of the City of New York, Charles L. Craig, yesterday refused to pay the \$100,000 demand for the doors.

The Comptroller said that the demand was an "afterthought" and that the city was not bound to pay for the doors.

The Independent Transit Company, which is the owner of the subway cars, had demanded payment for the doors.

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Night Watchman Lone Daylight Saving Enemy

DAN SMITH, a night watchman, was the only person to protest against daylight saving yesterday when an ordinance providing for it from the last Sunday in April to the last Sunday in September came up before the city commission in Newark, N. J., for passage. Smith objected to the measure on the ground that it caused confusion.

tem in 982 subway cars merely as an "afterthought," Comptroller Charles L. Craig appeared yesterday before Supreme Court Justice Gavegan to oppose the granting of a writ of mandamus that would compel him to authorize vouchers for such payments.

James L. Quackenbush, attorney for the Interborough, recited that the so-called Saratoga award settling differences that arose under the original subway contract of 1900 provided that the city hold \$2,500,534.58, which it owed the Interborough, in trust until wanted by the company for the construction of new subways or for additions to equipment. One million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars of that sum is wanted now, he explained, to pay for the new doors.

Comptroller Craig contended that this award was abrogated and absorbed into the later contract, known as Contract No. 2, and that the company recognized that fact when it applied to the Public Service Commission for approval of the door scheme under Contract No. 2. Justice Gavegan gave both sides until Tuesday to submit briefs and reserved decision.

GIRL'S THEFTS LAID TO LOVE FOR YOUTH

Stole \$18,000 From Employer
in Two Years to Spend on
Him. Is Charge.

Infatuation for a young man caused Catherine Brown, a stenographer, 23 years old, to steal \$18,000 from her employer. It was charged yesterday when the girl was arraigned before Magistrate Joseph Schwab in Harlem Court.

The specific charge on which the young woman was arrested was the theft of \$10 on January 12. It is alleged that \$72 was given to her by her employer, Max Rothman, manager of the Aranel Garage, at 166 East 120th street, in cash and checks to deposit at the Bank of the United States. She tore up the deposit slip, wrote out a new one for \$62 at the bank, and kept the \$10. It is charged.

Harold Fleischer, attorney for the complainant, told Magistrate Schwab that the girl during the last two years had in this way stolen \$18,000. She never took more than \$40 at a time, he said, and the losses never were noticed until accountants were set to going over the books for the purpose of making out the firm's income tax blank. Mr. Fleischer said she spent the money upon a young man whose name was not mentioned.

Detectives William Prantner and Henry Chiquette of the East 125th street station arrested the girl at her home, at 448 Central avenue, Brooklyn. They said in court she had confessed taking the money. Magistrate Schwab held her in \$5,000 bail for examination Monday. She could not furnish the bond.

CHICAGO SUICIDE TOLL
IS 366 FOR YEAR 1920

Failure to Get Work Is
Blamed for Many.

CHICAGO, March 24.—Statistics showing that 254 married persons and 112 single persons committed suicide in Chicago from January, 1920, to January, 1921, were given out by the Coroner to-day.

"Domestic troubles and financial worries caused a large proportion of these deaths," said a statement issued with the statistics. "A surprisingly large number of suicides, however, were caused by the action of employers in refusing work to men over 35."

INDICTED AS KILLER OF 3 NEGRO PEONS

Georgia Farmer Accused of
Murders to Prevent Expos-
ure of Slave Labor.

11 SLAIN, IS ASSERTED

Sheriff of One County Also Al-
leged to Have Held Men
in Bondage.

ATLANTA, March 24.—John Williams, a white farmer of Jasper county, was indicted by the Newton county Grand Jury at Covington, Ga., to-day, charged with murder in connection with the deaths of three negroes recently found in a river there, according to Deputy Sheriff Johnson. A negro employee of Williams confessed that eleven negroes in all had been killed.

The dead negroes who, it is alleged, had been held in peonage on the Williams plantation, had threatened to inform the authorities of their conditions, according to Deputy Johnson's version of the confession which he attributed to Clyde Manning, one of the two negroes whom he brought here for safe keeping. Many other negroes were forced to work on the plantation, the alleged confession said.

The bodies of three negroes were found recently weighted down with rocks in Yellow River, Newton county, near where Jasper county adjoins Newton, and Manning's alleged confession stated that six negroes in all had been weighted down and thrown into the river, and five others killed in other ways and their bodies buried.

The grand jury investigation at Covington is expected to be continued to-morrow, and meanwhile Williams and the two negroes are being held without bail. Williams was in jail at Covington to-night. The negroes were held as material witnesses.

United States District Attorney Alexander said here to-night he had learned of alleged peonage conditions in Jasper county, but that it was in the Southern district of the Federal District Court of Georgia. He recently indicted the sheriff of Jasper county and the latter's nephew on charges of peonage, the indictments being returned on the ground that they had come into the Northern district and taken back to Jasper county negroes who, it was alleged, had escaped from peonage there.

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